



WAKE UP

BEEEEEEP! BEEEEEEP! BEEEEEEP!

“Seriously, shut that thing off!” shouted Learie.

The alarm definitely seemed to be way too loud and was going off way too early in the morning. But Jaylen knew that it was the exact time it needed to go off because it was the very time that he set it for.

“Are you deaf? Shut that thing off!”

Learie obviously meant business and wasn’t a fan of Jaylen’s alarm clock.

Jaylen hit the off button.

“Yeah, it was a little loud wasn’t it? But regardless, we need to get up. Game Day, right?!?” Jaylen said as he threw off his blanket and hopped out of bed.

“That’s what they say. But it doesn’t matter for some of us, remember? Some of us just have the best ticket in the arena. Front row every game, baby!”

“Whatever, Captain.”

“Captain of the bench you mean.”

Even though Learie had been a highly recruited athlete, he had failed to live up to his potential through the years and was now barely playing even though he was a captain. His position was due more to

his status as one of only two seniors on the team, rather than anything he had done to be a good team leader.

On the other hand, even though Jaylen was not a captain, he had earned the respect and admiration of seemingly everyone.

“I just know that we’ve got to get up now because we didn’t give ourselves much time to mess around before we need to be on the bus,” said Jaylen.

“Maybe but it’s not like it’d be the worst thing in the world to get left behind. Then I could enjoy a day off and not have to put up with another loss and the embarrassment of not playing again.”

Learie knew that Jaylen didn’t like this kind of talk. As the team’s starting point guard, the junior took every loss personally.

“Let’s focus on what we need to do today.”

“What we need,” said Learie. “Is a break from this season.”

“We’ll all get a break soon enough,” said Jaylen shaking his head at his roommate. “But we’ve still got a month before the season is over and until then, we need to get dressed and head over to the gym. Like it or not, we do have another game today. It might be the same old, same old for some, but this is what we do, like it or not. I, for one, can think of hundreds of worse things to do than getting to play basketball and hang out with friends all day.”

And with that Learie and Jaylen got dressed and left the dorm. It had seemed as if they had gone through this routine a million times but little did they know that this day would not be like all the rest.